

REMARKS

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended the specification, amended claims 1-13, and added new claim 14. Claims 1-14 are pending in the application. In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-10 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,035,633 ("Kobayashi et al."), and objected to claims 11 and 12 as depending from a rejected base claim, but otherwise reciting allowable subject matter.

At the outset, Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the presence of allowable subject matter in claims 11 and 12. Applicants also acknowledge the Examiner-initiated telephone conference of October 13, 2004, during which the Examiner indicated that she was considering issuing a restriction requirement in this case. Further during the telephone conference, however, the Examiner concluded that no restriction requirement is necessary.

Applicants have amended the specification to improve readability. Applicants have also amended claim 1 to recite a card connector comprising a shutter member

"wherein said shutter member is selectively movable between a first position and a second position, the card connector receives a first card of a first size when the shutter member moves to the first position, and the card connector receives a second card of a second size when the shutter member moves to the second position."

Support for amended claim 1, can be found, for example, at pages 17-19 of the specification, which describe "operations performed when a small card A and a large card B are inserted." (Specification, page 17, lines 2-5.)

In addition, claim 2 has been amended to recite an actuator member "removably interlocked" with a shutter member, and claim 3 recites first and second actuator

members, “configured to removably interlock with the shutter member.” These amendments find support, for example, in Figs. 3 and 4, and in the specification at page 15, lines 18-21 (describing latch portions 25 of actuator members 6) and page 18, lines 3-5 (describing the outward motion of latch portions 25 of actuator members 6).

Claims 2-13 have been amended to improve readability and to maintain antecedent basis in light of the amendments to claim 1.

Applicants have amended claims 11 and 12, writing them in independent form, as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants have further amended claim 11 to recite a card connector wherein “a switching mechanism comprising *an actuator member* ... is provided in the housing ... the actuator member has a *cam surface* ... and the cam surface of the actuator member is downwardly and divergently inclined to situate inwardly at its upper portion.” (Emphasis added.) Applicants have also amended claim 12 to recite a card connector wherein “a switching mechanism comprising *an actuator member* ... is provided in the housing ... the actuator member has a *cam surface* ... and the cam surface of the actuator member has an inwardly bulged portion formed at the top part thereof.” (Emphasis added.) Applicants respectfully submit that claims 11 and 12, as amended, continue to recite allowable subject matter.

New claim 14 recites a card connector comprising a shutter member, wherein

“said shutter member is pivotally mounted to open and close the card insertion opening between a first position and a second position, the card connector receiving a first card having a first size when the shutter member turns to the first position, and the card connector receiving a second card having a second size when the shutter member turns to the second position.”

Support for a shutter member “pivotally mounted to open and close the card insertion opening” can be found, for example, at page 14, lines 7-23 of the specification. The

specification supports the claimed “card connector receiving a first card having a first size when the shutter member turns to the first position, and the card connector receiving a second card having a second size when the shutter member turns to the second position” at, for example, pages 17-19, which describe “operations performed when a small card A and a large card B are inserted.” (Specification, page 17, lines 2-5.)

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection of claims 1-10 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kobayashi et al. In particular, Kobayashi et al. fails to disclose a card connector that receives “a first card having a first size when the shutter member moves to the first position” and receives “a second card having a second size when the shutter member moves to the second position,” as recited in amended claim 1.

In the Office Action, the Examiner apparently contends that pin-protecting member 23 corresponds to the claimed shutter member by arguing that “Kobayahi et al. disclose a card connector 12 comprising ... a shutter member 23.” (Office Action, page 2.) As Figs. 10 and 12 of Kobayahi et al. illustrate, however, connector unit 12 does not receive a card having a first size when pin-protecting member 23 moves to a first position and receive a card having a second size when pin-protecting member 23 moves to a second position. Indeed, in Kobayashi et al., teaches that

“in the first position, the member 23 is held by the lock members 25a and 25b, in front of the connector pins 14. [Therefore] *the member 23 prevents anything other than medium 15 from abutting against connector pins 14 from damage.* Also, the member 23 held in the first position protects the pins 14 from dust, thus helping accomplish a reliable electrical [connection] between the pins 14 and the pin receptacle 16 when the medium 15 is in the second

position.” (Kobayashi et al., Column 5, lines 46-55 (emphasis added).)

Thus, connector unit 12 accepts no card when member 23 is in its first position (Fig. 6), and *only* medium 15 when member 23 is in its second position (Fig. 8). (See also Kobayashi et al., Column 4, line 47 - Column 5, line 23.) Kobayashi et. al does not disclose receiving a card other than medium 15 when pin-protecting member 23 is in the first position. Kobayashi et al. therefore fails to teach a card connector that “receives a first card of a first size when the shutter member moves to the first position” and “receives a second card of a second size when the shutter member moves to the second position,” as recited in amended claim 1.

Applicants note that the Examiner also apparently associates pin-protecting member 31 with the claimed shutter member by asserting Kobayashi et al., at Fig. 12 and Col. 6, lines 8-11, discloses that “shutter member 31 is ... operated according to a shape of a card.” (Office Action, page 3.) According to Kobayashi et al., however, “the pin-protecting member 31 closes the slot 11 unless the card-shaped recording medium 15 is inserted in the camera body 10. In the closed position, the member 31 prevents dust and *anything other than the medium 15* from entering the camera body 10 through the slot 11.” (Kobayashi et al., column 6, line 64 - column 7, line 1 (emphasis added).) Consequently, these additional portions of Kobayashi et al. also fail to disclose a card connector that “receives a first card of a first size when the shutter member moves to the first position” and “receives a second card of a second size when the shutter member moves to the second position,” as recited in amended claim 1.

Because Kobayashi et al. does not teach all elements recited in amended claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is allowable over this reference. Claims 2-10 and 13 are allowable at least due to their dependence from claim 1.

Applicants submit that, for the reasons explained above with respect to claim 1, Kobayahi et al. fails to disclose a card connector comprising a shutter member, "the card connector receiving a first card having a first size when the shutter member turns to the first position, and the card connector receiving a second card having a second size when the shutter member turns to the second position," as recited in new claim 14. New claim 14 is allowable over Kobayahi et al. for at least this reason.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: March 1, 2005

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